

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Peggy Durham

Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

Library Display

The TENAS display in the library case will be there until the end of November. If you have not managed to see it yet, please stop by and see what our interested members put together.

Holiday Wreaths

The clock is ticking but it's not too late to order wreaths for in-town delivery. Phone Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-6580 or e-mail her at cloverlane@aol.com as soon as possible.

Thanks to everyone for their support of this annual fundraiser. We'll make more than \$1,000 for the club this year!

Bluebird Boxes

The workers at Eric and Lori Hogan's Workshop constructed a record 57 nesting boxes on one Saturday in October!

Think holiday gift-giving for your neighbors, family and friends. Think spring.

Before we know it, we will be lined up in front of the local supermarkets, reminding shoppers that they have only a few days left to buy new bluebird nesting boxes for their homeless visitors returning from the south.

We thank the construction crew who work tirelessly on this project.

Program Offers Prep for CBC

The next chapter meeting will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7, starting at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Rd. (behind the high school).

The first speaker will be Tom Van Erp, the Christmas Bird Count coordinator. He will talk about our local count: the areas to be covered, the leaders and the birders.

When he is finished, Sylvia Brockner will show slides of birds we are likely to see and some we would be lucky to see. This review of bird identification will help everyone be better prepared for seeing and counting our local bird population.

This program will be a good warm-up for the actual Christmas Bird Count, which will be on Sunday, Dec. 17. (See article below for more details.) Anyone planning to participate in the CBC won't want to miss this meeting.

Our program will begin with the speaker and the bird slides, followed by refreshments and then a short business meeting with re-



Clark's Nutcracker likely to be seen at the CBC. Photo by Dick Williams

ports from officers and committee chairs.

TENAS meetings are open to the public. Members should feel free to bring guests. Newcomers, please make yourselves known so we can welcome you and introduce you to others.

CBC: No Experience Needed

Yes, it's that time of year again. Time to mark your calendars for the upcoming Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 17. You can participate in the field or count at your home feeder. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

Join our knowledgeable leaders to learn more about our wintering Evergreen feathered friends and have a good time doing so.

Our count area includes several interesting types of habitat in and around such places as Idaho Springs, Genesee, Kittredge, Evergreen Lake, Bear Creek, Squaw Pass and Mt. Evans Wildlife Area.

We divide into 13 small groups led by an experienced birder and count all the species and individual birds we see, always hoping, of

course, for sightings of rare or unusual species!

At the end of the day participants are invited to the traditional potluck supper where all counts are discussed over good food and drinks. This year's hosts, as in many years past, are Walt and Polly Phillips, who have made their beautiful home available for the occasion. (Call Walt, 303-674-7744, for directions.)

Lori Hogan again will be the supper coordinator. Please either sign up at the Dec. 7 meeting or call her at 303-674-4985 to let her know what dish you will contribute.

Our count is part of the Audubon International Christmas Bird Count that has been conducted for 107 years! Last year's count was a

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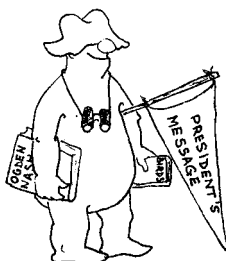
President's Message

It was a ducky day today for your lame-ducky president and 16 other participants on the TENAS field trip led by Brad Andres on this Sunday before the mid-term state and national elections.

Brad led us to three sites for waterfowl and we were not disappointed. We saw 23 species including canvasbacks, hooded mergansers and a lovely pair of wood ducks. It was a fine, clear day to enjoy these sightings and share fun and knowledge with other birders.

Not that all of those present were expert birders. Although a few in the group may qualify for expert status, they made none of us feel out of our league. Yes, me included.

Now, many of you realize my birding limitations but being an "Audubon president" leaves the impression with some that



I must be a birding wiz. Not so. In fact, I learned several bits of birding lore on this field trip.

Before sharing that newfound knowledge with you, there were other aspects of this field trip that deserve mentioning.

Our group was about evenly divided by gender, ranging in age from about 10 to 70 and representing a wide degree of birding ability from beginner on up. Several had expensive spotting scopes, which they gladly shared with all who wanted a closer view than binoculars allowed.

When a bird of interest was spotted, its whereabouts on the water or shorelines was readily and clearly communicated to all so we could all have a chance to see it for ourselves.

Differences of opinion on identifications were calmly dis-

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VIP VOLUNTEERS

- To **Jane Conrad** for donating a drill press, bits and saw horses for bird-box building.
- To **Carol Goldstein, Sylvia Robertson, Polly and Walt Phillips, Marilyn Kaussner, Cathy Shelton, Kent Simon and Brad Andres** for coordinating and installing the TENAS display at the library.
- To **Bill Brockner** for another year of writing the Bird Business column so that our readers are kept informed of usual and unusual birds in our area. Thank you, Bill!
- To **Laura Mehmert** for picking up the suet in Denver so our local winter birds will be better fed..
- To **Sylvia Brockner** for her willingness to take orders for suet, package it in 5-pound bags and handle the distribution. We and the birds appreciate her efforts.
- To **Rachel Norton, Kent Simon, Dave Balogh, Walt Phillips and Peggy Durham** for staffing the TENAS table at the Evergreen Wild Bird Store Oct. 14, explaining to interested people what we do and stand for. Also to **Sylvia Brockner** for giving a presentation about Evergreen birds to an interested audience of birders.
- To **Cathy Shelton, Sylvia Robertson, Marilyn Kaussner and Peggy Durham** for cleaning out the shed. Now anyone who needs to retrieve an item from there stands a good chance of finding it and getting to it.
- To **Walt Phillips** for continuing the dialogue with the Evergreen Park and Recreation District about using the warming hut at Evergreen Lake for a nature center.

2006 Officers

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Vice President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
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Assistant Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
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Jeff Geiger	303-674-4595
Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
Bud Weare	303-679-8889

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Birds in Balance	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
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Webmaster	Natasha Currlin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	



Christmas Bird Count Will Be Dec. 17

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resounding success with a record number of "counts" and a record number of participants.

From the Arctic Circle near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, and two counts in Nunavut, Canada, to the oceans south of Tierra del Fuego in South America, CBC participants prowl the Western Hemisphere in search of our feathered friends, counting every bird along the way.

The results of those 1,780 international

counts, including our own Evergreen-Idaho Springs area, are entered into a database available on the web, and summarized in the journal "American Birds," published by the National Audubon Society.

This gives valuable data on population trends and distribution of wintering birds. You can find more about this by going to www.audubon.org/birds/cbc/.

Please sign up for this important event at the December TENAS meeting or call me, Tom Van Erp, at 303-816-4420 or e-

mail me at tomvanerp@aol.com. Everyone is welcome!

To defray the cost of processing at the national level the participation fee is still only \$5.

Those of you who can't join us in the field but who would still like to participate by counting birds at their feeders may call Barbara Jean Gard at 303-674-3280 to obtain a feeder form and other information.

- Tom Van Erp

Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

Time to Sign Up for Annual Banquet

Plans are being finalized for the Annual Audubon Banquet to be held on Friday, Jan. 19, at Mt. Vernon Country Club. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7.

Irma Wolf again will offer her unique collection of items for the silent auction. This has always been a special occasion that allows us to gather with old friends, meet new people, and enjoy an excellent meal and good entertainment.

Our speaker will be photographer and author Boyd Norton on the topic of "Global Hot Spots." He has traveled widely for

many years and has written many books about worldwide environmental degradation.

Boyd is an Evergreen resident and a former TENAS member. His multi-media presentation will be both informative and entertaining. (The January-February *Dipper* will include Boyd's bio.)

The newly elected officers and directors will be installed during the business meeting.

For dinner there will be a choice of: Lemon Artichoke Chicken with Wild &

White Rice and Vegetables; Pork Medallions with Cranberry Sauce and Wild & White Rice and Vegetables; or Vegetarian Cannelloni and Vegetables.

All meals will include salad, rolls and ice cream. The price for this evening is \$30 a person.

Please fill out the reservation form below and return it as soon as possible. **YOUR CHECK MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR RESERVATION.** For more information, call Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715.

Here's My Reservation for the Banquet

Names: (Print first and last names clearly for each guest attending.)

Entree Choice—check one for each guest

Chicken

Pork

Vegetarian

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____. Cost is \$30 per person. Make check payable to TENAS Banquet. Payment must be included with your reservation.

Interested in carpooling? No Yes, Need ride Can provide transportation

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Reservations must be received by Friday, January 12 - Mail to:

TENAS BANQUET, P.O. BOX 523, EVERGREEN, CO 80437-0523



Bird Business

WOW! What an October! Snow came early this year with up to two feet the last week of October. Migration slowed down noticeably by the end of the month. Various junco forms arrived on schedule.

On Oct. 2, 25 Band-tailed Pigeons were observed by Jo Ann Hackes. They were seen in the Soda Creek area.

Six Green-tailed Towhees were found at Lookout Mountain on Oct. 2 by Inga Brennan. These towhees sometimes spend the winter in our area.

There was a noticeable passage of birds on Oct. 4 over Lookout Mountain. A Rufous Hummingbird came through and a flock of 47 robins flew close by.

Exciting to hear and see was a flock of 11 Sandhill Cranes flying over Loie Evans' house in Evergreen. Cranes fly over our community nearly every fall. On the same day, Karel Buckley watched an osprey flying over Evergreen Lake with a fish in its talons.

The last Rufous Hummingbird was seen on Oct. 8 by Inga Brennan at Lookout Mountain.

Amazing were 64 Long-billed Dowitchers seen on Oct. 9 by Loie Evans at Evergreen Lake. This sure emphasizes the value of this remarkable habitat.

The last Chipping Sparrow left our yard on Oct. 11 and the last White-crowned Sparrow was seen on Oct. 22. The first Pink-sided

Junco showed up on Oct. 18, the Oregon Junco on the next day and the White-winged on Oct. 26. Winter has arrived.

Sonny and Irma Wolf spent two weeks in Mexico in early October and Sherman Wing and Margie Bailey enjoyed two weeks in Australia. Did you see a platypus, Sherman?



Green-tailed Towhee

Kathanne Lynch savored a successful pelagic trip out of Pacific Grove, Calif., in September. She logged 28 species including a Black-footed Albatross.

Our club is unique. We have had two members display their artwork at the Birds in Art Exhibition in the Leigh Yawkey Woodman Art Museum in Wausau, Wis. Only 90 pieces are hung in this show.

This year Beth Erlund is showing a batik, "A Flotilla of Terns," which she made on a trip to Costa Rica. Congratulations, Beth! Earlier, Don Malik also displayed in this show. Both annually used to have displays in our art shows, years ago.

Wild Evergreen was shown nationally on the "Fox News" TV show Oct. 19. They showed daily deer visits at a home in our town.

Get ready for our annual Christmas Bird Count. Stake out all the birds in your territory ahead of time.

- Bill Brockner

Field Trip Leaders

Reminder to leaders: In planning trips for TENAS, Mike Foster depends on your initiative and imagination. Think plants as well as birds. If you are keen on ecology, geology, limnology (study of lakes) or any other "ology," someone will doubtless appreciate your knowledge.

Take a minute at the end of this year to think about what trips you would like to lead in 2007. Select some dates, then give Mike a call at 303-456-2647.

Especially for trips during May, June and July, we want to avoid scheduling more than one trip on the same day, so advanced planning is vital.

If you have never led a trip before, but have been thinking about it, step up! As the leader, you don't have to be an expert, you just get to pick where and when to go.

Leading will accelerate both your knowledge of and appreciation for our natural world.

Dear Bill and Syl,

Q: Why is the Annual Christmas Bird Count done in December rather than in June when we have so many more birds here?

A: The count is done in December because the migrations are over and the populations are stationary. Dr. Frank Chapman started the CBC in New York in 1900 and wanted to count the birds when the lowest number of species was in residence.

In June, we would have about 200 to 300 species, but in December 2005, we had 56 species. Many of those were "accidental birds" with only one or two spotted.

- Bill Brockner

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at W. Yale Ave.**



President's Message

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cussed in a good-natured manner and more observations made until mutual agreement was reached (symbiotic birding?) and the reasoning shared with everyone.

The half-day trip started in Bergen Park, where introductions were made and car-pooling arranged. The trip started and ended on time. Drivers and passengers made sure everyone was accounted for as we traveled from site to site and when we finally split off for our final destinations.

People were helpful and friendly. For instance, when I realized I forgot to bring water, bottled water was offered freely to me.

This was a well-run and successful TENAS field trip but it was not atypical of our outings. What I am trying to do here is encourage our members to overcome any hesitancy they might have about participating.

Check the Field Trip section in the *Dipper* or on the dipper.org website. Find one of interest to you, mark it on your calendar and go for it. I believe you will find it as rewarding an experience as was the trip today.

What did I learn today about waterfowl? Pied-bill Grebes cannot walk on land; their legs are too far back to balance their bodies out of water. Another grebe observation: You can spot them at a great distance on the water by the white on their tail end.

The small protuberance on the tip of the bill of a Ringed-neck Duck is called the "nail-head" by birders. The female Redhead has an eye ring that is a good field mark. And, finally, those Canada geese with the short bills have been given the status of being a distinct species: the Cackling Goose. So one more delight for me today was a new bird for my life list!

I hope I have not disappointed anyone by admission of my lack of birding expertise. Alas, I am not perfect. Worse yet, I have not always followed through on all that I intended to do for TENAS.

I got a little jibe today, in fact, for not living up to my boastful pledge last

winter to lead a field trip every month in 2006. Worse yet I even canceled a published trip I did agree to lead. I am a lame duck indeed.

So how have I with all my shortcomings managed to avoid impeachment? The answer is the same as to another question asked of me today: How could I find time to be TENAS president and still work full time?

The all-encompassing answer to ques-

tions of this nature is the leadership of other officers, board members, committee chairs and active TENAS members. It is their forethought, commitment and willingness to accept responsibilities and take action when needed that really keep TENAS going.

None of us, of course, is perfect but working together is what makes our chapter a great one.

- Dave Balogh

2007 Board Election

The nominees for officers and directors are on the ballot below.

The membership will vote on the slate at the Dec. 7 chapter meeting. If you will not be there, we encourage you to vote by mail. This will help meet our required quorum for a valid election.

Please fill out the ballot, sign it, enclose your name and address and send

it to TENAS, PO Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437 for arrival by Dec. 7.

You also may give your written proxy to someone who will be at the meeting. Remember those with Family Memberships have two votes.

The elected officers and directors will be installed at the Annual Banquet on Jan. 19.

2007 TENAS Board Ballot

Each Individual local or NAS membership is entitled to cast one vote for each Officer and for up to six (6) Directors. Family memberships are entitled to two votes. Family members please use two separate ballots.

Officers

- President—Peggy Durham
- Vice President—Brad Andres
- Treasurer—Walt Phillips
- Secretary—Carolyn Fraker
- Assistant Secretary—Kay Niyo
- Write-in Candidate

Directors

- Dave Balogh
- Ginny Boschen
- Jeff Geiger
- Sylvia Robertson
- David Wald
- Bud Weare

Indicate if for Officer or Director



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Stumbling into Ptarmigan on Mt. Evans

I first met Clait Braun in March of 1990 when I was living in Atlanta and visiting Denver on business. I wanted to see ptarmigan and grouse while out here attending a trade show and conference for the GIS industry.

A few weeks before the trade show I called the Colorado Division of Wildlife to see if someone could tell me where to find various native Colorado grouse. The DOW person who took my call gave me the name and number for Clait Braun, the DOW statewide grouse research biologist.

I called Clait for directions. Much to my surprise he offered to drive from Fort Collins, pick me up at my hotel and take me to see Sharp-tailed Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan on successive days. I was floored by his generosity.

I only asked for directions, but he offered to be my guide. He did as prom-

ised, driving from Fort Collins and picking me up at my hotel before dawn so we could be on a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek at sunrise.

Our trip to see ptarmigan was snowed out, but he gave me directions to another good location and I photographed ptarmigan in their white winter plumage a few days later.

I also photographed Sage Grouse on that trip based on Clait's directions. I always will be grateful for the extraordinary effort Clait made to help a fellow from Georgia find Colorado grouse species.

It was with great interest that I read David Dolton's article in the July/August edition of the *Dipper* about his trip with Kent Simon and Clait Braun on Clait's May 2006 survey of Mt. Evans ptarmigan.

I wished that I had known about the survey and that I could have gone along to see the birds and to get reacquainted with Clait. However, I was not to be too disappointed.

As luck would have it I would get a chance to see the birds that Clait is studying and enjoy corresponding with Clait about the Mt. Evans population of White-tailed Ptarmigan.

On Aug. 7 of this year Peggy Durham and I decided to take a hike across the tundra above Summit Lake from the Mt. Evans Road across Epaulet Mountain toward Rosalie Peak on the open tundra.

It was a nice sunny day good for hiking, but I had low expectations for bird sightings as we had QED, Peggy's Australian Shepherd, with us. It seemed logical that he would frighten any birds. I was wrong.

As we approached the ridge that is the summit of Epaulet Mountain from the southeast we saw the male ptarmigan. Peggy got a good photograph. What good luck we had. He had several bands on his legs.

The top right photo on the next page is Peggy's photograph of that bird. I wondered if it was one of the birds discussed in David's July/August *Dipper* article.

Peggy sent the digital image to me by

e-mail. I sent it to Kent Simon and asked if it was one of Clait's birds. Kent sent the image to Dave Dolton, who forwarded it to Clait.

Clait responded: "The bird in question is a male with W/Y (left) and B/W (right as one can see the aluminum band between the Blue and White). This is Aluminum band #6901 and the bird pictured was banded as an adult male on 22 August 2005 about 600 meters ESE of the top of Mt. Evans (south slope of Mt. Evans). Thanks. Clait."

So it was one of his! Why then was this bird more than 2 miles away from where he was banded? We learned in David Dolton's July/August *Dipper* article that these birds have territories. I thought it curious that he would be that far away from where he was banded. Clait's response to a question about why the bird was 2 miles from where he was banded follows below.

"Male W/Y B/W (6901) has his breeding territory on the northeast side of Mt. Epaulet. He then moves uphill to the Mt. Epaulet saddle in July and then moves to his summering range on Mt. Evans in late July-early August. He then moves to near a spring on the southeast side of lower Mt. Epaulet in mid to late September before moving to a winter use area (probably in the Beartracks Lake drainage). These movements are typical for ptarmigan except that females move longer distances."

This is interesting information about a bird that we happened upon while hiking across the tundra. But his answer raised more questions.

If the male birds leave their territories in July, why then did I see a family of eight Ptarmigan on the northeast side of Mount Spalding just below the summit on Aug. 27, 2005? The bottom photo shows all eight birds. Ptarmigan look like rocks; can you see all eight, even with the help of circles?

I sent the image to Clait and asked about this family group. His response was as follows; "I took a look at all of the

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Membership

We thank the new and renewing TENAS local members for their support.

NEW

Carol Haykos-Pine
Diane Sudmalis-Evergreen

NEW FAMILY

Carla, Kevin, Hallie & Charlotte
Larson-Indian Hills

RENEWING

Jonelle Balais-Evergreen
Jane Conrad-Evergreen
Mike Foster-Arvada
Tory Hurst-Evergreen
Barbara Klaus-Evergreen
Craig Wibirt & Pam Little-Conifer
Dee Miller-Evergreen
Marilyn Rhodes-Evergreen
Linda Rockwell-Evergreen

RENEWING FAMILY

David & Betty Rainey-Buffalo Creek
Carmon Slater & Donald Randall-
Evergreen



Hike Prompts Ptarmigan Questions

Continued from Page 6

birds and increased their size. They all appear to be adult males and one seems to be banded (white bandette?).

“I know from past work that males (and a few females) summer near the top of Mt. Spalding. These males mostly seem to come from the Chicago Creek drainage and not from the Mt. Evans side. However, we have seen birds banded from along the Mt. Evans road area, Gray Wolf and Guanella Pass all on Mt. Spalding and birds banded on Mt. Spalding seen at Mt. Evans and at Guanella Pass. Good stuff.”

So what I thought was a family group was all males. Well, my undergraduate major was history, so I don't feel too badly about completely blowing the age and/or gender identification of seven of the eight birds. My graduate degree was landscape architecture so that still leaves me zoologically impaired as well.

What started as a hike to get some exercise and view the vistas from atop Epaulet Mountain turned into a lot more. We saw and photographed a ptarmigan up close. We learned a lot about the natural history of the birds. It also gave me a chance to communicate with Clait Braun again.

It was all very gratifying. In Colorado we are fortunate to have state wildlife agency personnel who are willing to

spend time with those of us who do not carry hunting or fishing licenses.

Clait has retired and lives in Tucson now. It is good that he returns from time to time to continue his research in Colorado and our back yard.

- Dick Williams



A ptarmigan banded by Clait Braun. Photo by Peggy Durham



Eight ptarmigan. (Editor's note: There is a certain irony including photographs showing birds who make a career of camouflage.) Photo by Dick Williams

Field Trips and Outings

Saturday, Dec. 9

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and Bear Creek Lake Park

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Saturday-Monday, Jan. 13-15

(Martin Luther King Jr. holiday)

Bosque del Apache, N.M.

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Winter waterfowl should now be plentiful. Let's see how many different ducks we can find. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet at Wild Bird Center, in the mall at 32nd & Youngfield at 8:30 a.m. We'll return to WBC for snacks after the trip. Please call Mike if you intend to come along.

This is one of the great winter sites for ducks, geese, many raptors, some songbirds, but especially SANDHILL CRANES. The three-day weekend will give us two nights and parts of three days at this exceptional site. With the extra day we also will visit some nearby habitats quite different from the Rio Grande valley. If you've never been to Bosque, don't wait another year. We need a minimum of 5 participants; ideal number would be 8-12. Call Mike right away if you are interested so he can begin planning the logistics. Tell him if you are willing to drive.

Always call the leader on the Thursday before the trip to confirm arrangements!

Calendar

Late November	Wreath Pickup
Nov. 23	Turkey Trot
Dec. 7	Chapter Meeting
Dec. 9	Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and Bear Creek Lake Park Field Trip
Dec. 17	Christmas Bird Count

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Road, 7 p.m.

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130 www.auduboncolorado.org
TENAS website www.dipper.org

*The Dipper deadline for the
January/February issue is Thursday, Dec. 7.*

Submit articles to:

*Peggy Durham, peggy.durham@comcast.net
AND Margaret McDole, mem2@earthlink.net*

**Reminder: The next issue will be the winter Double Dipper—
January and February combined.**

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Local Membership Application
Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter, and vote (both Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain local.

Individual (\$20) Family (\$30) Student (\$10)
I have included an additional donation of _____

Name _____ Family member _____
Address _____

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If you would like to join or donate to National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, please call 1-800-274-4201.

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- Mt. Evans Ptarmigan
- Christmas Bird Count
- Banquet Reservations

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

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